

Appl. No. 09/629,909
 Amdt. Dated Dec. 9, 2003
 Reply to Office Action of Sept. 10, 2003

REMARKS

The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application. Previous Claims 23 and 24 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 10, 14, 17, 21 and 22 are amended as shown above. Claims 10- 22 are pending with Claims 10, 14, 17, 21 and 22 being independent. No new matter has been introduced.

In the Office Action, Claims 10, 13, 14, 17 and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,438,583 (McDowell). Claims 11, 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over McDowell in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,014,688 (Venkatraman). Claims 12, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over McDowell in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,405,243 (Nielsen).

Amended independent Claim 10 recites, *inter alia*, a method for transmitting an e-mail message intended for a non-preferred e-mail address to a preferred e-mail address, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the e-mail message at a second address, the e-mail message having been previously rejected at the non-preferred e-mail address and transmitted back to the sender address.

Amended independent Claims 14, 17, 21 and 22 recite similar features.

As understood by Applicant, McDowell relates to a method and apparatus for the re-routing of e-mail sent to a prior address (or an address that is non-working, or temporarily inconvenient) to the new address of an intended recipient. E-mail that is to be sent to a recipient is sent to the former Internet Service Provider (ISP). Because the recipient is no longer a subscriber to the old ISP, or because the address at the old ISP is temporarily inconvenient, the e-mail is r -routed to a re-route server. The re-route server then causes the e-mail to be sent to the corr ct address through a variety of processes.

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Applicant respectfully submits that McDowell fails to teach or suggest a method for transmitting an e-mail message having been previously rejected at the non-preferred e-mail address and transmitted back to the sender address, as recited in Claim 10.

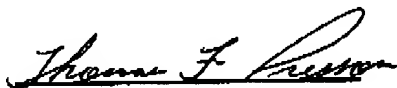
Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 10 is allowable. Furthermore, Applicant submits that independent Claims 14, 17, 21 and 22 are allowable for the same reason.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another independent claim discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's attorney may be reached at (203) 924-3845. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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